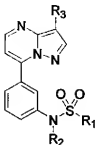


AMENDED CLAIM SET:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; wherein

R₁ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl(C₁-C₆), alkenyl(C₂-C₆), ω,ω,ω-trifluoroalkyl(C₁-C₆), cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆), cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆)alkyl(C₁-C₆), ~~O-alkyl(C₁-C₆)~~, ~~NH-alkyl(C₁-C₆)~~, ~~N(dialkyl(C₁-C₆))~~, ~~alkyl(C₁-C₆) O-alkyl(C₁-C₆)~~, ~~alkyl(C₁-C₆) NH-alkyl(C₁-C₆)~~, ~~alkyl(C₁-C₆) N(dialkyl(C₁-C₆))~~, phenyl, monosubstituted phenyl, disubstituted phenyl, phenylalkyl(C₁-C₆), phenylalkenyl(C₂-C₆), furyl, substituted furyl, isoxazolyl, substituted isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl, substituted pyrazolyl, thienyl, substituted thienyl, thiazolyl, substituted thiazolyl, pyridyl and substituted pyridyl;

R₂ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl(C₁-C₆), alkenyl(C₂-C₆), alkynyl(C₂-C₆) and cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆);

or else

R₁ and R₂ form a cycle having the structure:



wherein n is an integer 1, 2 or 3;

R₃ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, alkyl(C₁-C₆), cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆), alkenyl(C₂-C₆), alkynyl(C₂-C₆), ~~O-alkyl(C₁-C₆)~~, ~~halo-alkyl(C₁-C₆)~~, ~~CN-~~,

SO_2R_4 , NHR_4 , NR_4R_5 , and $-\text{COR}_6$, $-\text{CONHR}_6$, $-\text{COOR}_6$, $-\text{C}(\text{NR}_7)\text{R}_6$, phenyl, substituted phenyl, heteroaryl and substituted heteroaryl; R_4 and R_5 are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$), cycloalkyl($\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$), aryl and heteroaryl; wherein R_6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$), alkenyl($\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6$), alkynyl($\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6$), cycloalkyl($\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$), phenyl, substituted phenyl, monosubstituted phenyl, disubstituted phenyl, phenylalkyl($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$), phenylalkenyl($\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6$), furyl, substituted furyl, thienyl, substituted thienyl, thiazolyl, substituted thiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, substituted oxadiazolyl, pyridyl and substituted pyridyl; R_7 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$), cycloalkyl($\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$), $-\text{OH}$, $-\text{O}-$ alkyl($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$), $-\text{alkyl}(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)-\text{O}-$ alkyl($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$), $-\text{alkyl}(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)-\text{NH}-$ alkyl($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$), $-\text{alkyl}(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)-\text{N}(\text{dialkyl}(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6))$, phenyl, monosubstituted phenyl, furyl, thienyl, thiazolyl and pyridyl; and R_8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$), cycloalkyl($\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$), aryl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl;

with the proviso that simultaneously: R_1 may not be p-tolyl and R_2 methyl and R_3 benzoyl; and R_1 may not be p-tolyl and R_2 ethyl and R_3 furyl-2-carbonyl.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a cyano group.

3. (original) A compound according to claim 2, wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, phenyl and 4-methoxyphenyl; and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, cyclopropyl and 2-propynyl.

4. (original) A compound according to claim 2, wherein R_1 and R_2 jointly form a 1,3-propylene group.

5. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a thiophene-2-carbonyl group.

6. (original) A compound according to claim 5, wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, 2-phenylethenyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, phenyl, 2-chlorophenyl, 3-chlorophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 2,4-dichlorophenyl, 3,4-dichlorophenyl, 2-cyanophenyl, 3-cyanophenyl, 4-cyanophenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 3-nitrophenyl, 4-nitrophenyl, 2-thienyl, 5-methyl-4-isoxazolyl, 5-methyl-2-trifluoromethyl-3-furyl, 4-(4-morpholinyl)-3-pyridyl, 2,4-dimethyl-5-thiazolyl, cyclopropyl, benzyl, vinyl, 3,5-dimethyl-4-isoxazolyl, 1,3,5-trimethyl-4-pyrazolyl and cyclopentylmethyl; and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, cyclopropyl and 2-propynyl.

7. (original) A compound according to claim 5 wherein R_1 and R_2 jointly form a 1,3-propylene group.

8. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a benzoyl group.

9. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 8 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-~~propynyl~~ propinyl.

10. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a 4-fluorobenzoyl group.

11. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 10 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-~~propynyl~~ propinyl.

12. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a 4-methylbenzoyl group.

13. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 12 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-~~propynyl~~ propinyl.

14. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a 4-methoxybenzoyl group.

15. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 14 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-~~propynyl~~ propinyl.

16. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a 5-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl group.

17. (original) A compound according to claim 16 wherein R_1 is methyl and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and ethyl.

18. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a pyridyl-2-carbonyl group.

19. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 18 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-~~propynyl~~ propinyl.

20. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a pyridyl-4-carbonyl group.

21. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 20 wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propynyl ~~propinyl~~.

22. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 2 or claim 3 ~~claims 2 and 3~~, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-methanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-methanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-benzenesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-benzenesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-prop-2-ynyl-methanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-propyl-ethanesulfonamide
~~ethanesulfonamide~~;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-ethanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-prop-2-ynyl-propane-2-sulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-ethanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-butyl-ethanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-2-propanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-2-propanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-butyl-2-propanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-propyl-2-propanesulfonamide; and
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-prop-2-ynyl-ethanesulfonamide.

23. (original) A compound according to claim 4 wherein said compound is 7-(3-(2-isothiazolydinyl-1,1-dioxide)-phenyl)-3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine.

24. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 5 or claim 6 ~~claims 5 and 6~~, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-benzenesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-benzenesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-propyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-butyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-propyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-butyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-phenylethanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2,2,2-trifluoroethanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-chlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3-chlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-4-chlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2,4-dichlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3,4-dichlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-cyanobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3-cyanobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-4-cyanobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3-nitrobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-4-nitrobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-thiophenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-5-methyl-4-isoxazolyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-trifluoromethyl-5-methyl-3-furyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-6-(morpholin-4-yl)-3-pyridyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2,4-dimethyl-5-thiazolyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-cyclopropylsulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-benzylsulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-vinylsulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3,5-dimethyl-4-isoxazolyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-1,3,5-trimethyl-4-pyrazolyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-propanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-butanesulfonamide; and

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-cyclopentylmethanesulfonamide ~~cyclopentylmethanesulfonamide~~.

25. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 7 wherein said compound is 7-(3-(2-isothiazolylidinyl-1,1-dioxide)-phenyl)-3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl~~carbonyl~~)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine.

26. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 8 or claim 9 ~~claims 8 and 9~~ wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
and
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

27. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 10 or claim 11 ~~claims 10 and 11~~ wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo [1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

28. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 12 or claim 13 ~~claims 12 and 13~~ wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

29. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 14 or claim 15 ~~claims 14 and 15~~ wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

30. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 16 or claim 17 ~~claims 16 and 17~~ wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-{3-[3-(5-methyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide; and

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(5-methyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl)-pyrazolo [1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

31. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 18 or claim 19 ~~claims 18 and 19~~ wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-nyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

N-prop-2-nyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide.

32. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 20 or claim 21 ~~claims 20 and 21~~ wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

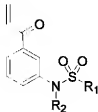
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-nyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

33. (withdrawn) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, according to claim 1, comprising reacting intermediate (II):

Q



(II)

wherein R₁ and R₂ are as defined in (I) and Q is an appropriate leaving group selected from the group consisting of N(dialkyl(C₁-C₆)), alkylthio(C₁-C₆) and alkoxy(C₁-C₆), with intermediate (III):



(III)

wherein R₃ is as defined in (I) and alternatively, treatment of the compounds of claim 1, in the form of free base, with an acid to form a salt thereof.

34. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 33, comprising utilizing the intermediate of formula (II) where Q is selected from the group consisting of dimethylamino, methylthio and methoxy.

35. (withdrawn) A method for treating or preventing diseases associated with GABA_A receptor modulation in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

36. (withdrawn) A method for treating or preventing diseases associated with α_1 -GABA_A receptor modulation in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

37. (withdrawn) A method for treating or preventing diseases associated with α_2 -GABA_A receptor modulation in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

38. (withdrawn) A method for treating or preventing anxiety in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

39. (withdrawn) A method for treating or preventing epilepsy in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

40. (withdrawn) A method for treating or preventing sleep disorders in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

41. (withdrawn) A method for treating or preventing insomnia in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

42. (withdrawn) A method for inducing sedation-hypnosis in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

43. (withdrawn) A method for inducing anesthesia in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

44. (withdrawn) A method for modulating the necessary time to induce sleep and its duration in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

45. (withdrawn) A method for inducing muscle relaxation in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

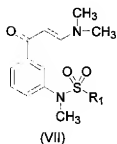
46. (currently amended) A composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 ~~in association with~~ and a therapeutically inert carrier.

47. (withdrawn) The use of a compound of claim 1 for preparing a medicament for treating or preventing diseases associated with GABA_A receptor modulation.

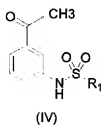
48. (withdrawn) The use of claim 47 wherein the diseases are associated with α_1 -GABA_A or α_2 -GABA_A receptor modulation.

49. (withdrawn) The use of a compound of claim 1 for preparing a medicament for treating or preventing anxiety, epilepsy, sleep disorders, insomnia, for inducing sedation-hypnosis, anesthesia or muscle relaxation or for modulating the necessary time to include sleep and its duration.

50. (withdrawn) A process for preparing the intermediate of formula (VII):

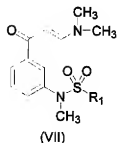


wherein R_1 is as described in (I), characterized by the reaction of the intermediate of formula (IV):

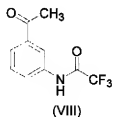


wherein R_1 is as described above, with N,N-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal.

51. (withdrawn) A process for preparing the intermediate of formula (VII):



wherein R_1 is as described in (I), characterized by the reaction of N-(3-acetylphenyl)-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide (VIII):



and N,N-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal, followed by the formation of sulfonamide by reaction with the corresponding sulfonic acid chloride.